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BULLETIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFIT STATISTICS.

MARCH, 1947.

1. GENERAL.

This summary, issued by the Commonwealth Statistician, (Dr. Roland Wilson) covers the operations of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, 1944, during the month of March, 1947, and the nine months ended March, 1947.

The Act provides for the payment of benefit to persons whose normal earnings have been interrupted through unemployment or temporary incapacity. It also provides a third class of benefit - designated Special Benefit - which gives a measure of assistance to those persons who, on account of some special circumstances, cannot comply with the statutory requirements relating to unemployment or sickness benefit, and who are prevented from earning a livelihood and are in need.

The number of recipients of benefit do not embrace the total employment and sickness in the community. Unemployment or sickness of less than seven days' duration is not covered due to the provision in the Act of a "waiting period" of this length of time during which no benefit is payable. Permanent incapacity is not included as this is covered by the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act. The application of a "means test" excludes another group from benefit. The inclusion of claims rejected - see 2 (i) - completes the coverage of all persons applying for benefit, irrespective of whether their claims are approved or rejected.

The number of "persons on benefit" in this summary relates to principal beneficiaries who would normally be breadwinners. Dependants of each beneficiaries are not included.

The information contained in this bulletin has been compiled from data made available by the Department of Social Services. The details given in Section 4, 6 and 7 refer to admittances and exists notified during the period shown and not to admittances and exits which actually occurred during the period.

Due to delay in the receipt of information in respect of some beneficiaries, the figures are preliminary and subject to revision. This applies particularly to discontinuances and results in persons on benefit at the end of the month being overstated.

2. SUMMARY

(i) Claims Rejected: The number of applicants for benefit whose claims were rejected during the nine months ended March, 1947, is shown in the table below. No further dissection of these rejected claims has been made but it is hoped to extract further information at a later date.

CLAIMS REJECTED - NINE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1947 : STATES

State	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	T o t a l	
				Number	Per cent. of all claims
New South Wales (a)	4,062	1,660	64	5,786	19.5
Victoria ..	4,245	1,868	68	6,181	20.3
Queensland ..	13,623	1,113	66	14,802	28.5
South Australia ..	2,487	1,155	27	3,669	39.1
Western Australia ..	5,585	753	34	6,372	29.1
Tasmania ..	99	289	8	396	15.3
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>30,101</b>	<b>6,838</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>37,206</b>	<b>25.5</b>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(ii) Claims Admitted, Exits, Persons on Benefit: The following table shows, for the year 1945 - 46, and for the months from July, 1946, to February, 1947, the number of claims admitted and discontinued and for the same periods and also for March, 1947, the number of persons remaining on benefits. Figures for claims and admittances for March, 1947 have been omitted as they are still subject to very considerable upward **correction**. In the case of the figures for persons on benefit at the end of that month the degree of correction will be very much less (a downward revision of up to 15 per cent) and they have therefore been included.

CLAIMS ADMITTED, DISCONTINUANCES AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT YEAR, 1945-46,  
AND MONTHS OF JULY, 1946, TO MARCH, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Period	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		Total		Persons
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
CLAIMS ADMITTED.									
Year 1945-46									
1946 -									
June	65,455	12,289	33,178	6,724	242	194	98,875	19,207	118,082
July	9,071	2,494	3,334	666	57	17	12,462	3,177	15,639
August	3,875	164	4,199	917	56	31	8,130	1,112	9,242
September	2,791	109	3,385	759	27	22	6,203	890	7,093
October	3,102	97	3,546	877	81	27	6,729	1,001	7,730
November	16,132	1,001	4,348	1,065	201	31	20,681	2,097	22,778
December(a)	9,307	320	2,825	693	176	33	12,308	1,046	13,354
1947 -									
January (a)	6,480	166	2,976	644	95	14	9,551	824	10,375
February (a)	5,663	159	3,292	860	89	17	9,044	1,036	10,080

DISCONTINUANCES.

Year 1945-46									
1946 -									
June	58,879	11,992	27,550	5,432	186	54	86,615	17,478	104,093
July	9,188	2,494	2,996	547	40	8	12,224	3,049	15,273
August	4,125	195	3,868	786	42	16	8,035	997	9,032
September	2,983	145	3,293	655	24	8	6,300	808	7,108
October	3,106	107	3,424	777	47	27	6,577	911	7,488
November	9,833	874	4,333	983	75	18	14,241	1,875	16,116
December (a)	4,617	164	2,629	715	66	16	7,312	895	8,207
1947 -									
January (a)	10,543	361	3,078	661	177	13	13,798	1,035	14,833
February (a)	6,057	143	3,230	730	86	15	9,373	888	10,261

PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF EACH MONTH

1946 -									
June	6,576	297	5,628	1,292	56	140	12,260	1,729	13,989
July	6,459	297	5,966	1,411	73	149	12,498	1,857	14,355
August	6,209	266	6,297	1,542	87	164	12,593	1,972	14,565
September	6,017	230	6,389	1,646	90	178	12,496	2,054	14,550
October	6,013	220	6,511	1,746	124	178	12,648	2,144	14,792
November	12,312	347	6,526	1,828	250	191	19,088	2,366	21,454
December (a)	17,002	503	6,722	1,806	360	208	24,084	2,517	26,601
1947 -									
January (a)	12,939	308	6,620	1,789	278	209	19,837	2,306	22,143
February (a)	12,545	324	6,682	1,919	281	211	19,508	2,454	21,962
March (a)	10,813	306	6,876	2,082	219	194	17,908	2,582	20,490

(a) Subject to revision.

NOTE : For monthly figures from July, 1945, to June, 1946, see October, 1946 Bulletin

3. BENEFITS PAID.

The benefits paid in respect of each class of benefit in each State during March, 1947, and the nine months ended March, 1947, are shown in the following table:-

AMOUNT OF BENEFITS PAID DURING MARCH, 1947, AND THE NINE MONTHS ENDED  
MARCH, 1947 : STATES.

State	Benefits paid during March, 1947				Benefits paid during nine months ended March, 1947.			
	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special	Total
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
N.S.W. (a)	14,934	22,284	754	37,972	134,342	197,762	4,653	336,757
Victoria	7,583	17,806	783	26,172	135,461	133,310	5,080	273,851
Queensland	52,615	15,633	2,356	70,604	327,846	84,870	6,101	418,817
S.Aust. (b)	1,203	7,570	254	9,027	17,384	55,752	1,152	74,288
W.Australia	5,775	4,712	236	10,723	92,893	44,045	2,032	138,970
Tasmania	405	2,362	126	2,893	6,409	24,288	1,434	32,131
<u>TOTAL</u>	82,515	70,367	4,509	157,391	714,335	540,027	20,452	1,274,814

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.



4. BENEFITS DISCONTINUED.

(i) Duration : The number of weeks during which benefit was paid for each of the cases of benefit whose discontinuance was notified during the nine months ended March, 1947, is shown in the following table:-

DURATION OF BENEFITS DISCONTINUED DURING THE NINE MONTHS  
ENDED MARCH, 1947 : AUSTRALIA

Duration of Benefit Weeks	Employment			Sickness			Total (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Person
Less than 1	11,357	1,416	12,773	2,826	466	3,292	14,237	1,882	16,119
1 and under 2	12,911	2,106	15,017	4,762	834	5,596	17,735	2,949	20,684
2 " " 3	5,612	191	5,803	4,112	784	4,896	9,798	986	10,784
3 " " 4	4,274	149	4,423	3,524	777	4,301	7,861	934	8,795
4 " " 5	3,379	123	3,502	2,666	614	3,280	6,137	747	6,884
5 " " 9	11,299	419	11,718	6,251	1,425	7,676	17,753	1,876	19,629
9 " " 13	4,550	161	4,711	2,797	768	3,565	7,447	948	8,395
13 " " 26	4,798	250	5,048	3,302	987	4,289	8,184	1,269	9,453
26 and over	1,618	60	1,678	1,794	400	2,194	3,427	493	3,920
<u>TOTAL</u>	59,798	4,875	64,673	32,034	7,055	39,089	92,579	12,084	104,663

(a) Includes Special Benefits (747 males, 154 females, 901 persons).

Of the 104,663 benefits whose discontinuance was notified during the nine months ended March, 1947, 41,397 (40 per cent) were in receipt of benefit for five weeks and over, 48,281 (46 per cent) for four weeks and over, 57,076 (55 per cent) for three weeks and over 67,860 (65 per cent) for two weeks and over, 88,544 (85 per cent) for one week and over, whilst 16,119 (15 per cent) received benefit for less than one week.

Average duration of unemployment benefits discontinued was shorter than that of sickness. Nineteen per cent of unemployment and eight per cent of sickness cases were in receipt of benefit for less than one week, whilst for durations of less than three weeks the percentages were 52 and 35 respectively.

(ii) Reasons for Cessation : Of the 64,673 cases of unemployment benefit whose termination was notified during the nine months ended March, 1947, 59,361 (91.8 per cent) secured employment or failed to report (which in most cases means that the beneficiary has resumed employment without advising the Department of Social Services), 2,121 (3.3 per cent) transferred to Sickness Benefit or to another district and 1,852 (2.9 per cent) failed or refused to accept an offer of employment.

Of the 39,089 cases of sickness benefit whose termination was notified, 33,496 (85.7 per cent) recovered from their illness and presumably resumed employment, 1,759 (4.5 per cent) were classified as permanently incapacitated which, in practically every case, means that they were transferred to Invalid Pensions, 1,550 (4.0 per cent) transferred to Unemployment Benefit or to another district and 707 (1.8 per cent) died.

5. PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF MARCH, 1947.TOTAL PERSONS

(i) Proportion per 10,000 in Employment: The proportion of persons on benefit at 29th March, 1947, to the estimated number of employees in employment was approximately 82 per 10,000, comprising 44 unemployment, 36 sickness and 2 special cases per 10,000. The following table shows the proportions for males and females separately:-

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 29TH MARCH, 1947,  
PER 10,000 WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT : AUSTRALIA.

Sex	Proportion	No. on benefit per 10,000 in employment			
		Unemployment	Sickness	Special	Total
Males ..	per 10,000 males	60	38	1	99
Females ..	per 10,000 females	4	31	3	38
Persons ..	per 10,000 persons	44	36	2	82

(ii) State Totals : The following table shows the number of persons in each State in receipt of benefit at 29th March, 1947:-

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 29TH MARCH, 1947 : STATES.

State	Unemployment		Sickness		Special		T o t a l		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
N.S.W. (a)	1,794	51	2,715	686	70	48	4,579	784	5,363
Vic.	1,545	42	1,739	649	61	44	3,345	735	4,080
Q'ld.	6,505	184	902	247	52	40	7,459	471	7,930
S. A. (b)	133	3	643	204	10	12	786	219	1,005
W. A.	785	24	573	209	22	23	1,380	257	1,637
Tas.	51	2	304	87	4	27	359	116	475
TOTAL	10,813	306	6,876	2,082	219	194	17,908	2,582	20,490

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(iii) Ages : Distribution of persons on benefit at 29th March, 1947, according to age groups is shown in the following table:-

GROUPED AGE : PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT 29TH MARCH, 1947 : AUSTRALIA

Grouped Age (as at 31st Dec. 1946)	Unemployment			Sickness			T o t a l (a)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Person	Males	Females	Person
16 - 19 Years	496	85	581	463	488	951	959	584	1,543
20 - 24 "	1,169	93	1,262	614	518	1,132	1,786	622	2,408
25 - 29 "	1,083	35	1,118	514	217	731	1,599	261	1,860
30 - 34 "	1,122	19	1,141	570	155	725	1,698	193	1,891
35 - 39 "	946	14	960	636	140	776	1,584	178	1,762
40 - 44 "	1,141	15	1,156	662	161	823	1,803	206	2,009
45 - 49 "	1,133	14	1,147	737	177	914	1,872	227	2,099
50 - 54 "	1,174	13	1,187	863	148	1,011	2,041	195	2,236
55 - 59 "	1,248	18	1,266	991	76	1,067	2,246	107	2,353
60 - 64 "	1,301	-	1,301	826	2	828	2,320	9	2,329
TOTAL	10,813	306	11,119	6,876	2,082	8,958	17,908	2,582	20,490

(a) Includes Special Benefits (219 males, 194 females, 413 persons)

6. UNEMPLOYMENT - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING NINE MONTHS ENDED MARCH AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF MARCH, 1947.

(i) Cause of Unemployment : The following table analyses the reasons for termination of employment as stated by persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the nine months ended March, 1947, and by those who were on benefit at 29th March, 1947.

Discharges and lay-offs are separations on the initiative of the employer, the broad distinction being that a discharge is final and there is no likelihood of the person being re-engaged, at least in the near future. A day-off is a separation of a temporary nature with the idea that the job will be available again for the employee as soon as circumstances permit.

Quits are separations which take place on the initiative of the employee.



CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING  
NINE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1947 - AUSTRALIA

Cause of Unemployment	Admitted during nine months ended March, 1947			On benefit at 29th March, 1947.		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Discharged for disciplinary reasons	618	13	631	112	2	114
Discharged for other reasons -						
Inefficiency, including medical unfitness	1,793	65	1,858	517	10	527
Retrenchment, including closing of establishment	5,541	211	5,752	1,266	36	1,302
Replaced by reinstated ex-service personnel etc., relieving worker only	1,993	162	2,155	443	28	471
Other discharges, including inadequately defined	375	13	388	80	2	82
Laid-off owing to -						
Power rationing	8,411	3,040	11,451	38	5	43
Shortage of materials	2,682	73	2,755	517	8	525
Strikes, lock-outs withing the same establishment	14,428	367	14,795	1,291	10	1,301
Seasonal work	7,888	172	8,060	2,453	54	2,507
Casual work	6,906	85	6,991	1,427	26	1,453
Other reasons, including inadequately defined	1,279	42	1,321	274	13	287
Inadequately defined	7	-	7	207	3	210
Quitted -						
Medical unfitness, work too heavy	4,008	227	4,235	975	47	1,022
Other quits, including inadequately defined	2,739	169	2,908	501	39	540
Not previously employed -						
Employers, workers on own account	988	8	996	275	1	276
Ex-service personnel not yet returned to work	2,452	49	2,501	423	9	432
Other	52	47	99	14	13	27
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>62,160</b>	<b>4,743</b>	<b>66,903</b>	<b>10,813</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>11,119</b>

(ii) Industrial Groups : In the following statement is shown the distribution, according to main industrial groups, of persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the nine months ended March, 1947, and of these on benefit at 29th March, 1947:-

UNEMPLOYMENT - INDUSTRIAL GROUPS - CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING NINE MONTHS  
ENDED MARCH, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group	Claims admitted during nine months ended March, 1947			On benefit at 29th March, 1947.		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying	6,582	10	6,592	1,933	1	1,934
Other Primary Production	832	-	832	212	-	212
Coal Mining	982	-	982	36	-	36
Other Mining and Quarrying	726	-	726	118	-	118
Factories and Industrial -						
Founding, engineering, metal working including shipbuilding	15,040	373	15,413	1,652	11	1,663
Vehicles, including aircraft	2,787	28	2,815	233	1	234
Textiles and articles of dress	1,207	2,185	3,392	99	40	139
Food, drink and tobacco	7,538	505	8,043	1,720	62	1,782
Furniture, woodwork, etc.	1,859	51	1,910	178	1	179
Other factories, including heat, light and power	3,451	280	3,731	404	9	413
Building and construction	5,003	1	5,004	1,000	-	1,000
Transport and Communication	4,970	78	5,048	723	7	730
Commerce and Finance -						
Wholesale and retail trade	3,906	306	4,212	863	51	914
Finance and property	212	11	223	49	1	50
Public Administration and Professional	2,450	150	2,600	652	35	687
Personal and Domestic Service	2,297	676	2,973	505	67	572
Other	2,318	89	2,407	436	20	456
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>62,160</b>	<b>4,743</b>	<b>66,903</b>	<b>10,813</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>11,119</b>

The States with the largest numbers of males in receipt of unemployment benefit at 29th March, 1947, in the principal industrial groups were:-

Agriculture, Pastoral, etc.: (Australia 1,923 males) - Q'ld. 1,642, N.S.W. 197;

Food, Drink, etc., Factories: (Australia 1,720 males) - Q'ld. 1,481; . . .

Founding, Engineering, etc.: (Australia 1,652 males) - Vic. 808; N.S.W. 575;  
Q'ld. 166.

Building and Construction : (Australia 1,000 males) - Q'ld. 698; N.S.W. 148;

Wholesale and Retail Trade : (Australia 863 males) - Q'ld. 446; N.S.W. 160;  
W.A. 122; Vic. 105;

Transport and Communication : (Australia 723 males) - Q'ld. 500;

Public Administration, etc.: (Australia 652 males) - Q'ld. 409, N.S.W. 122;

(a) Defence - Civilian employees: (Australia 342 males) - Q'ld. 273

(iii) Metropolitan and Other : Unemployment benefits whose admission was notified during the nine months ended March, 1947, and those current at 29th March, 1947, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary ) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES.

State	Claims admitted during nine months ended March, 1947				On Benefit at 29th March, 1947			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W.(b)	3,702	46	6,025	289	936	3	858	48
Victoria	10,880	396	2,075	39	1,264	32	281	10
Queensland	10,069	1,943	17,624	1,151	1,685	30	4,820	154
S. A. (c)	816	4	361	6	114	3	19	-
W. A.	8,187	790	2,086	75	692	19	93	5
Tasmania	246	2	89	2	34	-	17	2
TOTAL	33,900	3,181	28,260	1,562	4,725	87	6,088	219

(a) Metropolitan comprises the regions administered from Capital City and Suburban district offices of the Departments of Social Services or Labour and National Services (Employment Service). In N.S.W., Liverpool is included in "Other". In S.A., Port Adelaide and in W.A., Fremantle and Midland Junction are included in Metropolitan.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

7. SICKNESS - CLAIMS ADMITTED DURING THE NINE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1947; AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT AT END OF MARCH, 1947.

(i) Metropolitan and Other : Sickness benefits whose admission was notified during the nine months ended March, 1947, and those current at 29th March, 1947, are dissected into "Metropolitan" and "Other" districts (based on the usual place of residence of the beneficiary) in the following table:-

DISTRIBUTION OF SICKNESS BENEFICIARIES BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS (a) : STATES.

State	Claims admitted during nine months ended March, 1947.				On Benefit at 29th March 1947			
	Metropolitan		Other		Metropolitan		Other	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
N.S.W. (b)	5,695	1,627	5,399	782	1,422	454	1,293	232
Victoria	5,186	1,744	2,914	645	1,168	487	571	162
Queensland	2,219	566	2,802	440	455	138	447	109
S. A. (c)	2,410	530	1,305	202	443	148	200	56
W. A.	2,069	656	1,279	258	380	161	193	48
Tasmania	550	139	955	171	122	38	182	49
TOTAL:	18,129	5,262	14,654	2,498	3,990	1,426	2,886	656

(a) See footnote to Table 6 (iii). (b) Includes A.C.T. (c) Includes Northern Territory.



(ii) Nature of Sickness : The following table shows the principal causes of sickness, as stated on medical certificates, of persons whose admission was notified during the nine months ended March, 1947, and of those on benefit at 29th March, 1947:-

NATURE OF SICKNESS : CLAIMS ADMITTED, ETC. DURING NINE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Nature of Sickness	Claims admitted during nine months ended March, 1947			On Benefit at 29th March, 1947		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	2,152	473	2,625	360	132	492
Cancer ..	235	31	266	73	16	89
Other Tumours ..	273	179	452	62	66	128
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-Deficiency Diseases ..	2,063	497	2,560	548	198	746
Diseases of -						
Blood and Blood-forming Organs ..	163	181	344	48	63	111
Nervous System and Sense Organs ..	2,896	972	3,868	705	275	980
Circulatory System ..	2,755	335	3,090	854	119	973
Respiratory System ..	3,791	652	4,443	667	142	809
Digestive System ..	7,095	1,610	8,705	1,257	306	1,563
Genito-Urinary System ..	1,345	583	1,928	328	172	500
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc. ..	-	658	658	-	186	186
Skin and Cellular Tissue ..	2,050	378	2,428	329	76	405
Bones and Organs of Movement ..	905	185	1,090	211	61	272
Other Diseases (including ill-defined conditions) ..	466	256	722	112	94	206
Injuries and Acute Poisoning -						
Fractures ...	3,180	294	3,474	843	79	922
Other Injuries, etc. ..	3,057	292	3,349	401	59	460
Operations (original disability not stated) ..	219	144	363	50	28	78
Other (including not stated) ..	138	40	178	28	10	38
TOTAL	32,783	7,760	40,543	6,876	2,082	8,958

(iii) Industrial Groups: The distribution according to main industrial groups, of persons on sickness benefit at 29th March, 1947, is shown in the following table:-

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS : PERSONS ON SICKNESS BENEFIT AT 29th MARCH, 1947 : AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group	Males	Females	Persons
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying ..	556	12	568
Other Primary Production ..	146	-	146
Coal Mining ..	301	-	301
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	131	-	131
Factories and Industrial -			
Founding, engineering, metalworking, including shipbuilding ..	1,066	74	1,140
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	298	14	312
Textiles and articles of dress ..	261	403	664
Food, drink and tobacco ..	467	111	578
Furniture, woodwork, etc. ..	281	21	302
Other Factories, including heat, light and power ..	600	124	724
Building and Construction ..	831	1	832
Transport and Communication ..	650	54	704
Commerce and Finance -			
Wholesale and retail trade ..	634	332	966
Finance and property ..	46	28	74
Public Administration and Professional ..	228	330	558
Personal and Domestic Service ..	347	570	917
Other ..	33	8	41
TOTAL:	6,876	2,082	8,958

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COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN.